

Folder: *Smart Murder Trial*  
Source: *Union leader*

Item:

Date: *5/28/91*

## Trial Provides Opportunity To Advance Writing Career

By **NANCY MEERSMAN**  
Union Leader Staff

Alec Beckett of Exeter is a 24-year-old Harvard graduate and world traveler. He was also a juror in the Pamela Smart trial, chosen because he was out of the country and knew nothing about the murder of Smart's husband, Gregory.

The young writer, who had been gathering experiences in Eastern Europe and Asia for articles, came home to one of the biggest stories of the decade.

In a Boston newspaper



**Alec Beckett**

article republished in today's Union Leader, Beckett confirmed what other jurors had said, that Smart convicted herself on tape recordings made secretly by her friend, Cecilia Smart.

Neither The Boston Globe nor Beckett or his family would say yesterday how much the aspiring writer was paid for his article.

"It's a private matter between him and the Boston Globe. We don't discuss freelance fees," said Lincoln Milstein, features editor for

**JUROR, Page 20**



## JUROR

(Continued From Page One)

the Globe.

Milstein said the deal for the article was made after the trial was over. "He contacted us ... after he was dismissed as a juror in the Smart case."

Milstein said early this week Beckett asked a friend, who is a writing teacher at Harvard and also a Globe writer, if the newspaper would be interested in his account of the jury deliberations. The newspaper was interested.

The Associated Press said in a discussion about rights to the article that Beckett's father, attorney William Beckett, had suggested a fee of \$1,000 for regional distribution and \$5,000 for international distribution by the AP.

But it was later agreed there would be no fee if the article ran under Beckett's byline.

Beckett did not wish to speak to reporters yesterday and his mother, Sally Beckett, said if the rush of reporters chasing jurors since the verdict hadn't let up, Beckett "would have gone back to Thailand."

She said her son, who has been writing since he was a child, recently returned home after traveling for several months in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, China and other parts of Asia.

Assistant Attorney General Paul Maggiotto, who prosecuted the case, said it was not unusual for jurors to publish their accounts of trials.

He said Beckett's piece supports the state's view that the jury was insulated from the massive media coverage of the trial.

Accusations have been raised that a juror discussed the case outside the deliberation room before the verdict was reached. Maggiotto said the account "does seem to support our position that there were no improprieties on the jury's part."

Maggiotto said nothing has been found that would substantiate the claim that a juror discussed the case outside the deliberation room.

Paul Twomey of Sisti and Twomey, which represented Pamela Smart, said of the Beckett article, "I respect a juror's right to write about his experience and I respect his thoughts but I disagree with the verdict."

Twomey said the jurors worked very hard and it was a very difficult experience. "These people gave up a lot of time ... while hundreds took the easy way."

Twomey said he and his partner Mark Sisti have begun working on an appeal.